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NOVEMBER UNEMPLOYMENT RATES ANNOUNCED

Highest November job total in the history of the state

Adjusted Data

Madison – Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Roberta Gassman today announced that Wisconsin's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for November was estimated at 4.7 percent, which is lower than the national rate estimated at 5.0 percent. The Wisconsin rate shows an increase of 0.2 percent from the October 2005 figure and a slight increase from the November 2004 seasonally adjusted rate of 4.6. The national rate for October and November 2005 remained the same at 5.0 percent.

Unadjusted Data

The unadjusted unemployment rate for Wisconsin was estimated at 4.3 percent, an increase of 0.5 percent from the October rate of 3.8 percent, close to expectations for this time of year, but still lower than the national rate of 4.8 percent. The norm for Wisconsin between October and November is an increase of 0.4 percent. Wisconsin's unadjusted rate in November 2004 was 4.2 percent. The national unadjusted rate for November was estimated at 4.8 percent, up 0.2 percent from the October figure. The unadjusted November rate in 2004 was 5.2 percent.

Despite a slightly increased unemployment rate, this month was the highest November job total in the history of the state. The previous high was recorded in November 2000, when there were 2,869,900 jobs in Wisconsin. In November, the number of jobs in the state increased by 3,700 over October to 2,870,300 jobs. Job totals generally do not change much between October and November, and seasonal shifts in weather can negatively affect construction, some manufacturing, and leisure and hospitality, while the retail sector and the government sector generally see increases. However, the increase of 3,700 jobs between October and November show an even stronger increase than normal for this time of year.

"We are pleased to see the increase in job totals and our record setting numbers, but also recognize that we have areas of the state where people are still struggling to find work. We continue to focus on job creation and connecting people to work so all Wisconsin workers can benefit from our improving economy," Secretary Gassman said.

Over the past year, the November 2005 job figure was up 26,700 from the November 2004 job figure. Wisconsin's construction employment continued to be very strong in November, up 7,400 from last year's November figure and the highest number of construction jobs in Wisconsin history in November. In addition, November showed the highest annual increase in construction jobs over the prior year.

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DWD estimates indicate that 2005 will close with record numbers of individuals employed in construction, bettering the prior record by 6,000 jobs. Retail trade was down by 7,700 jobs from last year's November figure. Professional and business services was up 7,000 jobs, education and health services was up 7,100, leisure and hospitality was up 6,600 jobs, other services was up 700 and government jobs were up 1,800. Gains of 300 and 1,200 were seen in information and financial activities. Natural resources and mining was down 200 jobs, manufacturing was down 700 jobs, and trade, transportation, and utilities was down 4,500 jobs.

November employment and unemployment figures for individual counties will be available December 21, 2005. This release also is available at <http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dwd/newsreleases/>

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WISCONSIN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY
In Thousands

ITEM	NET CHANGE FROM				
	PRELIM. NOV 05	FINAL OCT 05	YEAR AGO NOV 04	MONTH AGO	YEAR AGO
PLACE OF RESIDENCE DATA					
NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES					
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	3049.9	3046.9	3069.9	3.0	-20.0
UNEMPLOYMENT	131.2	115.8	128.5	15.4	2.7
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	4.3	3.8	4.2	0.5	0.1
EMPLOYMENT (1)	2918.7	2931.1	2941.4	-12.4	-22.7
PLACE OF WORK DATA					
NONFARM WAGE & SALARY	2870.3	2866.6	2843.6	3.7	26.7
TOTAL PRIVATE	2442.5	2442.3	2417.6	0.2	24.9
GOODS PRODUCING	644.3	646.9	637.8	-2.6	6.5
NATURAL RESOURCES & MINING	3.7	3.9	3.9	-0.2	-0.2
CONSTRUCTION	137.7	139.9	130.3	-2.2	7.4
MANUFACTURING	502.9	503.1	503.6	-0.2	-0.7
Durable Goods	312.1	312	313.8	0.1	-1.7
Nondurable Goods	190.8	191.1	189.8	-0.3	1.0
SERVICE PRODUCING	2226	2219.7	2205.8	6.3	20.2
TRADE	442.4	432.7	447.0	9.7	-4.6
Wholesale Trade	116.5	116.4	113.4	0.1	3.1
Retail Trade	325.9	316.3	333.6	9.6	-7.7
TRANS., WAREHOUSE, & UTILITIES	110.6	110.9	110.5	-0.3	0.1
Utilities	11.4	11.6	11.5	-0.2	-0.1
INFORMATION	50.4	50.2	50.1	0.2	0.3
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	158.1	158.2	156.9	-0.1	1.2
Finance and Insurance	130.2	130.3	129.6	-0.1	0.6
Real Estate, Rental, & Lease	27.9	27.9	27.3	0.0	0.6
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	261.5	263.1	254.5	-1.6	7.0
Prof., Scien., & Tech. Services	86.8	87.1	87.4	-0.3	-0.6
Mgmt. Of Companies and Enterprises	39.8	39.6	38.2	0.2	1.6
Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt. Services	134.9	136.4	128.9	-1.5	6.0
EDUCATIONAL & HEALTH SERVICES	391.5	389.1	384.4	2.4	7.1
Educational Services	55.7	54.8	55.5	0.9	0.2
Health Care & Social Assistance	335.8	334.3	328.9	1.5	6.9
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	247.8	255.2	241.2	-7.4	6.6
Arts, Entertain., & Recreation	29.5	32.8	29.2	-3.3	0.3
Accommodation & Food Services	218.3	222.4	212	-4.1	6.3
OTHER SERVICES, except Public Admin	135.9	136	135.2	-0.1	0.7
GOVERNMENT	427.8	424.3	426	3.5	1.8
Federal Government	29.2	29.2	29.5	0.0	-0.3
State Government	108.7	108.1	107	0.6	1.7
Local Government	289.9	287	289.5	2.9	0.4
PERSONS INVOLVED IN L-M DISPUTES	0.0	0.3	0.0	-0.3	0.0
(1) Includes L-M Disputes					
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES					
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	3051.7	3046.5	3065.7	5.2	-14.0
UNEMPLOYMENT	144.0	137.4	140.2	6.6	3.8
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	4.7	4.5	4.6	0.2	0.1
EMPLOYMENT	2907.7	2909.1	2925.5	-1.4	-17.8

*Differences in totals may occur as a result of rounding.

Source: Local Area Unemployment Statistics and Current Employment Statistics programs, Labor Market Information Section, Bureau of Workforce Information